

APPROVED
COMMISSION ON DISABILITY ISSUES
MEETING MINUTES OF
June 29, 2009

TIME The meeting convened at 7:07 P.M.

PRESENT Chair Lord-Hausman, Vice-Chair Moore, Commissioners Berger, Fort, and Krongold.

ABSENT Commissioners Longley-Cook and Kirola.

MINUTES

The April 27, 2009 minutes were approved with no changes.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

There were no written communications.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Potential Additions to the City of Alameda Paratransit Program (Public Works):

Discuss available resources for the City's Paratransit Program.

Barry Bergman, PW Transportation Coordinator, discussed available funding allocations to various programs. There are substantial funds available due to lack of use of the City's taxi program.

Vice-Chair Moore asked if people are familiar with the program to which Mr. Bergman replied that marketing has been done along with assistance from Jackie Krause, Mastick Senior Center. There has also been significant outreach effort.

Mr. Bergman asked the CDI about expanding the shuttle linking it to key destinations in order to secure more riders. Chair Lord-Hausman asked if Measure B funds are used for the Paratranist Program to which Mr. Bergman confirmed that Measure B funds are housed in Public Works but managed by Jackie Krause, Mastick Senior Center Supervisor. Ms. Krause has previously inquired about how to utilize unspent funds to be able to get individuals from one place to another. Chair Lord-Hausman confirmed that Agenda Item Number Three is the same discussion as Agenda Item Number One and suggested combining both items into the current discussion. Chair Lord-Hausman further suggested contacting Debbie Operud / AUSD, Special Olympics, Louise Nakada at Alameda Hospital, Pat Bilks at Children's Hospital, and the Learning Center as possible contacts for the Paratransit Program.

Mr. Bergman stated that Independence Plaza is an option.

Commissioner Berger mentioned that there are board and care facilities for small families who would be very interested in taking residents on outings to which Mr. Bergman asked do the residents require an individual to assist? Commissioner Berger responded that it is on a case-by-case basis.

Commissioner Berger commented that churches also have senior groups that meet once a week to which Mr. Bergman acknowledged that he and Jackie Krause have discussed that in the past. Commissioner Berger recommended taking a look at adult day-care.

Vice-Chair Moore stated that it sounds like the program is limited to creative options to which Mr. Bergman responded that it is not limited.

Vice-Chair Moore stated that more shuttle options should be expanded to areas outside of Alameda.

Chair Lord-Hausman stated that Roberta Blackwell with Miracle Leagues Baseball league has a need for transportation to other Miracle League fields in the area.

Vice-Chair Moore stated that access for transportation for families with disabilities is limited by their ability to drive to which Mr. Bergman asked is there an organized group for families with disabilities? Vice-Chair Moore responded there is a name and phone number of one group which she will forward.

Chair Lord-Hausman asked what is the time limit to use these funds to which Mr. Bergman responded by September 2009.

Chair Lord-Hausman suggested expanding locations within the City of Alameda.

Vice-Chair Moore suggested contracting Bananas which supports families with children with disabilities and would be an excellent organization that would benefit from shuttle services.

Commissioner Berger suggested checking Alameda phonebook white pages.

Chair Lord-Hausman acknowledged that the CDI fair could benefit to which Commissioner Krongold responded that Jackie Krause has already taken care of the shuttle.

Commissioner Krongold asked if an ID would be required to use the shuttle to which Mr. Bergman responded yes they are working on that.

Bergman asked what times during the day should be used to which Commissioner Krongold responded and suggested night hours. Chair Lord-Hausman suggested weekend hours would be good and midday during the week. Vice-Chair Moore stated that she would assist in this effort.

Chair Lord-Hausman requested that Mr. Bergman come back in October once the plan is done.

2. CDI Name Change (Chair Lord-Hausman):

Discuss possible name changes.

Chair Lord-Hausman suggested possibly changing the name to Commission on Accessibility Issues to generate more interest in joining the CDI.

Commissioner Berger thinks the new proposed name is a much better description of what the CDI role is in terms of accessibility. It is broad enough to give you more freedom than restraints.

Vice-Chair Moore stated that we should use language that is positive and affirming of our capabilities such as accessibility vs. disability (which is the same as affirming limitations.)

Commissioner Fort stated that the word disability does not describe what the CDI does vs. accessibility, which would be the better choice.

Commissioner Krongold stated that disability is the word of choice that many organizations use. The Mission Statement would have to be changed to which Secretary Akil said that is reflected in the bylaws.

Vice-Chair Moore responded that this should be about using positive language to let people know what they are about.

Commissioner Berger stated that the Mission Statement should address “disability” as encompassing the normal changes that come with aging.

Chair Lord-Hausman stated that the name change would be more inclusive and eliminate any connotations with limitations. Chair Lord-Hausman suggested keeping this on the agenda for the next month.

3. Measure B Funds (Chair Lord-Hausman):

Discuss inquires from Mastick Senior Center regarding allocation of available funds.

Discussion for this item was combined with agenda item number one.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Special Need-Special Services Resource Fair (Commissioner Krongold):

Discuss Special Need-Special Services Resource Fair.

Chair Lord-Hausman stated that the letter and registration form would be mailed to approximately 50 non-profit organizations. The CDI approved the letter and registration form for distribution with changes. Secretary Akil will provide 50 copies of letters and registration and City Attorney envelopes to assist the CDI in this effort.

Commissioner Krongold stated that Jackie Krause suggested not using Mastick as a shuttle stop, but, instead use Grand Pavilion or Harbor Bay to which Chair Lord-Hausman suggested using the car share lot on Harbor Bay just past the Grand Pavilion.

CDI suggested West Marine Parking Lot on the West end of town to which Chair Lord-Hausman will contact WABA director to get contact person.

Commissioner Krongold distributed the draft Press Release that was approved by the CDI.

2. CDI Meeting Start Time (Chair Lord-Hausman):

Discuss changing meeting start time.

The CDI voted unanimously to change the meeting start time back to 6:30 PM, effective July 27, 2009. Secretary Akil stated that she will include a report in next month's agenda meeting.

STAFF COMMUNICATIONS

There was no staff communications.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/NON-AGENDA ITEMS

1. Commissioner Berger stated that Allisa Chadau with the Reform Movement, who is a former CDI member and legally blind, came out with a Braille version of the Prayer Book. It is a 14 volume, 700-page book that included volunteer from Contra Costa Braille Transcribers. Commissioner Berger acknowledged that she along with ten others took the lead to make this happen by June 12 for the Temple that she belongs to.
2. Chair Lord-Hausman requested that Disability Awareness Month be added to the next agenda.
3. Chair Lord-Hausman extended an invitation to the Chair of the Housing Commission to attend the July 27 CDI meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m. The next scheduled meeting is Monday, July 27, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucretia Akil
Board Secretary